

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A packing rubber for a well stuffing box defining a first axis, said packing rubber comprising:
a base portion;
a top portion oppositely disposed from said base portion;
a hole along said first axis, said hole extending from said base portion to said top portion;
an annular groove formed in said hole; ~~[[and]]~~
a fiber ring disposed within said annular groove~~[[.]]; and~~
wherein said fiber ring is impregnated with at least one lubricant selected from a predetermined group of lubricants consisting of: polytetrafluorethylene (PTFE), graphite particles, petroleum distillates and grease.

Claim 2. (original) A packing rubber of claim 1 wherein:
said base portion defining a first diameter; and
said top portion defines a second diameter that is less than said first diameter.

Claim 3. (currently amended) The packing rubber of claim 1 wherein said fiber ring includes at least one fiber selected from a predetermined group of fibers consisting of:
graphite fibers, ~~KEVLAR fibers~~, carbon fibers, polytetrafluorethylene fibers, white oakum fibers, silica fibers, aramid fibers, ceramic fibers, wire fibers, nylon fibers, cotton fibers, hemp fibers and acrylic fibers.

Claim 4. (canceled)

Claim 5. (original) The packing rubber of claim 1 and further comprising:
a second annular groove formed in said hole; and
a second fiber ring disposed within said second annular groove.

Claim 6. (original) The packing rubber of claim 1 wherein:
said base portion defines a first plane; and
said annular groove defines a second plane that is transverse to said first plane.

Claim 7. (original) The packing rubber of claim 1 wherein:

said hole defines a third diameter; and
said fiber ring defines a fourth diameter that is less than said third diameter.

Claim 8. (original) The packing rubber of claim 1 wherein:
said annular groove comprises a first planar surface; and
said annular groove comprises a second planar surface that is parallel to said first planar surface.

Claim 9. (original) The packing rubber of claim 8 wherein:
said fiber ring comprises a first planar surface;
said fiber ring comprises a second planar surface;
said fiber ring first planar surface contacts said annular groove first planar surface; and
said fiber ring second planar surface contacts said annular groove second planar surface.

Claim 10. (currently amended) A method of reducing liquid from leaking past a polish rod and a well stuffing box, said method comprising:
providing a packing rubber defining a first axis, said packing rubber comprising:

- a base portion;
- a top portion oppositely disposed from said base portion;
- a hole along said first axis, said hole extending from said base portion to said top portion;
- an annular groove formed in said hole;
- a fiber ring disposed within said annular groove; and
- an axial cut formed through said packing cone;

positioning said packing cone around said polish rod; [[and]]
wherein said positioning said packing cone also causes compression of said fiber ring[.]; and
wherein said fiber ring is impregnated with at least one lubricant selected from a predetermined group of lubricants consisting of: polytetrafluorethylene (PTFE), graphite particles, petroleum distillates and grease.

Claim 11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein:
said base portion defines a first diameter; and
said top portion defines a second diameter that is less than said first diameter until said positioning said packing cone around said polishing rod.

Claim 12. (currently amended) A packing assembly for a well stuffing box defining a first axis, said packing assembly comprising at least two packing rubbers, each of said packing rubbers comprising:
a base portion;
a top portion oppositely disposed from said base portion;
a hole along said first axis, said hole extending from said base portion to said top portion;
an annular groove formed in said hole; [[and]]

a fiber ring disposed within said annular groove[.]; and
wherein said fiber ring is impregnated with at least one lubricant
selected from a predetermined group of lubricants consisting of:
polytetrafluorethylene (PTFE), graphite particles, petroleum distillates
and grease.

Claim 13. (currently amended) The packing assembly of claim 12
wherein said fiber ring includes at least one fiber selected from a
predetermined group of fibers consisting of:

graphite fibers, ~~KEVLAR fibers~~, carbon fibers, polytetrafluorethylene
fibers, white oakum fibers, silica fibers, aramid fibers, ceramic fibers, wire
fibers, nylon fibers, cotton fibers, hemp fibers and acrylic fibers.

Claim 14. (canceled)

Claim 15. (amended) The packing assembly of claim 12 and further
comprising:

a second annular groove formed in said hole of at least one of said
packing rubbers; and

a second fiber ring disposed within said second annular groove.

Claims 16. (original) The packing assembly of claim 12 wherein:
said base portion defines a first plane; and
said annular groove defines a second plane that is transverse to said
first plane.

Claims 17. (original) The packing assembly of claim 12 wherein:
said hole defines a third diameter; and
said fiber ring defines a fourth diameter that is less than said third
diameter.

Claims 18. (original) The packing assembly of claim 12 wherein:
said annular groove comprises a first planar surface; and
said annular groove comprises a second planar surface that is parallel
to said first planar surface.

Claims 19. (original) The packing assembly of claim 18 wherein:
said fiber ring comprises a first planar surface;
said fiber ring comprises a second planar surface;
said fiber ring first planar surface contacts said annular groove first
planar surface; and
said fiber ring second planar surface contacts said annular groove
second planar surface.

Claim 20. (new) A packing rubber for a well stuffing box defining a first
axis, said packing rubber comprising:
a base portion;
a top portion oppositely disposed from said base portion;

a hole along said first axis, said hole extending from said base portion to said top portion;
an annular groove formed in said hole;
a fiber ring disposed within said annular groove;
a second annular groove formed in said hole; and
a second fiber ring disposed within said second annular groove.

Claim 21. (new) A packing rubber of claim 20 wherein:
said base portion defining a first diameter; and
said top portion defines a second diameter that is less than said first diameter.

Claim 22. (new) The packing rubber of claim 20 wherein said fiber ring includes at least one fiber selected from a predetermined group of fibers consisting of:

graphite fibers, aramid fibers, carbon fibers, polytetrafluorethylene fibers, white oakum fibers, silica fibers, aramid fibers, ceramic fibers, wire fibers, nylon fibers, cotton fibers, hemp fibers and acrylic fibers.

Claim 23. (new) The packing rubber of claim 20 wherein said fiber ring is impregnated with at least one lubricant selected from a predetermined group of lubricants consisting of:

polytetrafluorethylene (PTFE), graphite particles, petroleum distillates and grease.

Claim 24. (new) The packing rubber of claim 20 wherein:
said base portion defines a first plane; and
said annular groove defines a second plane that is transverse to said first plane.

Claim 25. (new) The packing rubber of claim 20 wherein:
said hole defines a third diameter; and
said fiber ring defines a fourth diameter that is less than said third diameter.

Claim 26. (new) The packing rubber of claim 20 wherein:
said annular groove comprises a first planar surface; and
said annular groove comprises a second planar surface that is parallel to said first planar surface.

Claim 27. (new) The packing rubber of claim 26 wherein:
said fiber ring comprises a first planar surface;
said fiber ring comprises a second planar surface;
said fiber ring first planar surface contacts said annular groove first planar surface; and
said fiber ring second planar surface contacts said annular groove second planar surface.